

REMARKS

In response to the examiner's restriction requirement, the applicants elect the claims of Group IV, and the species corresponding to claim 5. This election is being made with traverse.

First, it is believed that the species of claim 11, is not distinct, and indeed belongs to the same species as claim 5. The species recited in claim 11 relates to the antigen binding fragments obtainable from the antibodies recited in claim 5, and thus should be considered as belonging to the same species as that in claim 5. The examiner's argument that the antibodies have "different modes of action which, in turn, address different therapeutic endpoints" does not hold for the species of claim 5 and 11.

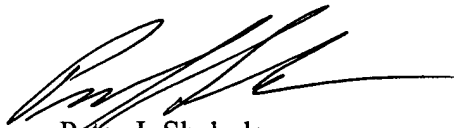
Secondly, the applicants traverse the examiner's grouping of claims as recited in paragraph 1 of the office action. Systemic inflammation is a characteristic common to all of the diseases cited in claim 1, providing a common etiological platform for a meaningful therapeutic approach. Indeed, this systemic inflammation can be treated and prevented according to the present invention by partial inhibition of Factor VIII. This is a very important finding as it is coming increasingly clear that both full thrombin activation and complete inhibition of thrombin activation is equally ominous to patients. Thus, the method of the present invention, which discloses partial inhibition of Factor VIII and in this way only partial inhibition of thrombin activation is an important breakthrough. Moreover, it is believed that the method of claim 1 relates to the same inventive concept as the claim relating to a pharmaceutical composition in claim 13 (and thus should be entitled to the same scope) so that in fact alleged inventions of Group VII and VIII should be considered as unitary with claim 1. Thus, it is believed all the claims should be grouped together.

In view of the foregoing, should the examiner have any questions regarding the election with traverse, the examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney.

In view of the foregoing, further consideration is requested.

No other fees are believed due at this time, however, please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to deposit account number 12-0913 with reference to our attorney docket number (920522-905380).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter J. Shakula', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

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